

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historical Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG#80-48

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

historic **Poore-Tufts House**

and/or common

2. Location

street & number **12001 Riverview Road**

city, town **Fort Washington**

vicinity of

congressional district

state **Maryland**

county **Prince George's**

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name **Nancy Poore Tufts**

street & number **12001 Riverview Road**

telephone no.

city, town **Fort Washington**

state **MD**

zip code **20744**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Prince George's County Administration Bldg.**

liber

street & number **14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive**

folio

city, town **Upper Marlboro**

state **MD**

zip code **20772**

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

federal state ☒ county local

depository for survey records **Historic Preservation Section, M-NCPPC**

City, town **Upper Marlboro**

state **MD**

7. Description

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Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved Date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today

The Poore-Tufts House consists of an amalgamation of parts of many older buildings. It was designed and built by its owners in 1939, using distinctive elements of many buildings, now destroyed, from Washington D.C., Baltimore and other locations.

This is a two-and-one-half story house, built of brick, and fronted by a large pedimented portico on the west. The main block consists of two large spaces flanking a central stairhall. From each of the two major spaces, a gable-roof wing extends to the rear (east) forming an irregular squared-C plan. A lower two-story hip-roof addition, incorporating a "sunroom" on the first story, extends to the south from the main block.

The west façade is seven bays wide, with principal entrance in the central bay through a door with fanlight and sidelights. Small fanlighted doors give entrance to the two principal rooms in the second and sixth bays. Sheltering nearly all of the west façade is a two-story pedimented portico supported by five square-in-section ivy-covered brick columns. The wood-sided pediment has a central eight-faceted bull's-eye window flanked by two small six-light rectangular windows. The wide protected porch covered by the portico is bounded on the north by a decorative iron balustrade.

Narrow flush chimneys (apparently non-functional), centered at the ridge, mark the north and south gable ends of the main block; they are embellished by a narrow apron parapet of brick. The gable roof of the main block is covered with gray composition shingle, and there are two gabled dormers on the west plane. A dentilled wood cornice embellishes the west façade and all three elevations of the south addition.

From each of the principal spaces (living room and dining room) a two-story wing extends to the east, forming the irregular squared C of the plan, and forming a sort of courtyard around the rear entrance that is centered in the east elevation of the main block. Above this east door is a large stained-glass window that lights the interior staircase landing.

The southerly wing incorporates a large study in the first story, and a substantial exterior brick chimney is centered at its east gable end, serving the large fireplace in the study. Also rising from the ridge of this wing at its intersection with the main block is another brick chimney that serves the fireplace in the east wall of the living room.

The northerly wing incorporates pantry and kitchen, and leads out to a latticed porch on the east gable end. Below the porch is a below-grade garage, approached from the east between brick retaining walls.

Windows throughout the house are large and multi-lighted, e.g., two eight-light casement sashes within a larger 30-light window. Windows on the south elevation of the "sunroom" addition are even larger (with forty lights); that on the first story is surmounted by a large decorative fanlight.

In the seventh bay of the west façade, the second-story opening is a full-length multi-light door which opens onto an iron balcony that was salvaged from a D.C. house.

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Description (continued)

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Bricks used to build the house are of variegated shades of red, pink and gray; they were salvaged the Old Senate Office Building warehouse that was demolished for the development of the Federal Triangle area.

The interior plan of the house features the two principal spaces of the main block, fronting west toward the Potomac. As on the exterior, the interior of the house is distinguished by many unusual decorative details from a variety of sources. The principal entrance, in the central bay of the west façade, leads into a central stairhall, the most notable feature of which is the large stained-glass window (a landscape scene) that lights the easterly landing of the staircase. To the south of the stairhall is a large living room, lighted from the west by multi-lighted door and windows. The south end of the living room opens, through a wide arch, into a well-lighted sunroom. In the east wall of the living room is a fireplace with an Italian stone mantel, intricately carved with ogee arch and colonnettes, frieze of fruit and vines, and dentilled cornice. A door just north of this mantel leads into the study that takes up the first story of the east wing. In the north wall of the study is a full-height rustic stone fireplace.

On the north side of the central stairhall is the dining room, like the living room lighted from the west by multi-lighted windows and door. The most notable feature of the dining room is the full-height fireplace, constructed by the original owner/builder of the house as a copy of a 15th-century Venetian piece at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and complete with faceted hood and elaborate multi-course cornice. The rear wing that extends east from the dining room includes pantry and kitchen, as well as a small passage that leads back to the rear east door.

The house is approached from Riverview Road by a long drive through wooded grounds. The west façade of the house fronts on the Potomac River, the west lawn extending to a 30-foot drop to the water. In the small garden area to the north of the house is a masonry balustrade salvaged after the second inauguration ceremony of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance- check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		
Specific Dates	1939			
	Builder/Architect: Dr. & Mrs. James E. Poore			
check: Applicable Criteria	A	B	C	D
and/or				
Applicable Exception	A	B	C	D
Level of Significance	national	state	local	

The Poore-Tufts House is a unique amalgamation of elements of older buildings from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia and other places. The result is a spacious and handsome country house of unique plan, design and decorative detail. It was built in 1939 by Dr. and Mrs. James E. Poore.¹

After World War I, when Dr. Poore was stationed at Fort Belvoir, he purchased (1920) 14 acres of land on the Potomac River between Broad Creek and Swann Creek. Using a cabin and shed on the property, he set up a fishing camp for the use of his family and friends. After his retirement as Colonel in the Army Medical Corps, he and his wife began planning their country house. It was built in 1939, designed incrementally by both Dr. and Mrs. Poore as they went along.

Mrs. Poore collected many decorative features that she wanted for the house, going as far as Philadelphia and New York for many pieces, and monitoring the demolition of older buildings in downtown Washington for potential salvage of specific items. For example, the stained-glass window at the staircase landing was salvaged from a Dupont Circle mansion, the second-story iron balcony from a house on I Street, and the ornate carved stone mantel in the living room from a Baltimore salvage dealer. In some cases, a desired feature was constructed by Dr. Poore, for example, he constructed the copy of a 15th-century Venetian fireplace for the dining room using photographs of one of the holdings of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

After Dr. Poore's death in 1947, Mrs. Poore continued to occupy and work on the house, with the help of her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and William Tufts. Mrs. Tufts has continued residence in this unique house since the death of her mother in 1956.

¹ Prince George's County Deeds 153:414, 133:600.

9. Major Bibliographical Sources

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See notes, Item #8

10. Geographical DataAcreage of nominated property 12.8 acres

Tax map 131, Parcel 34

Quadrangle name Mount VernonQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

A			B		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

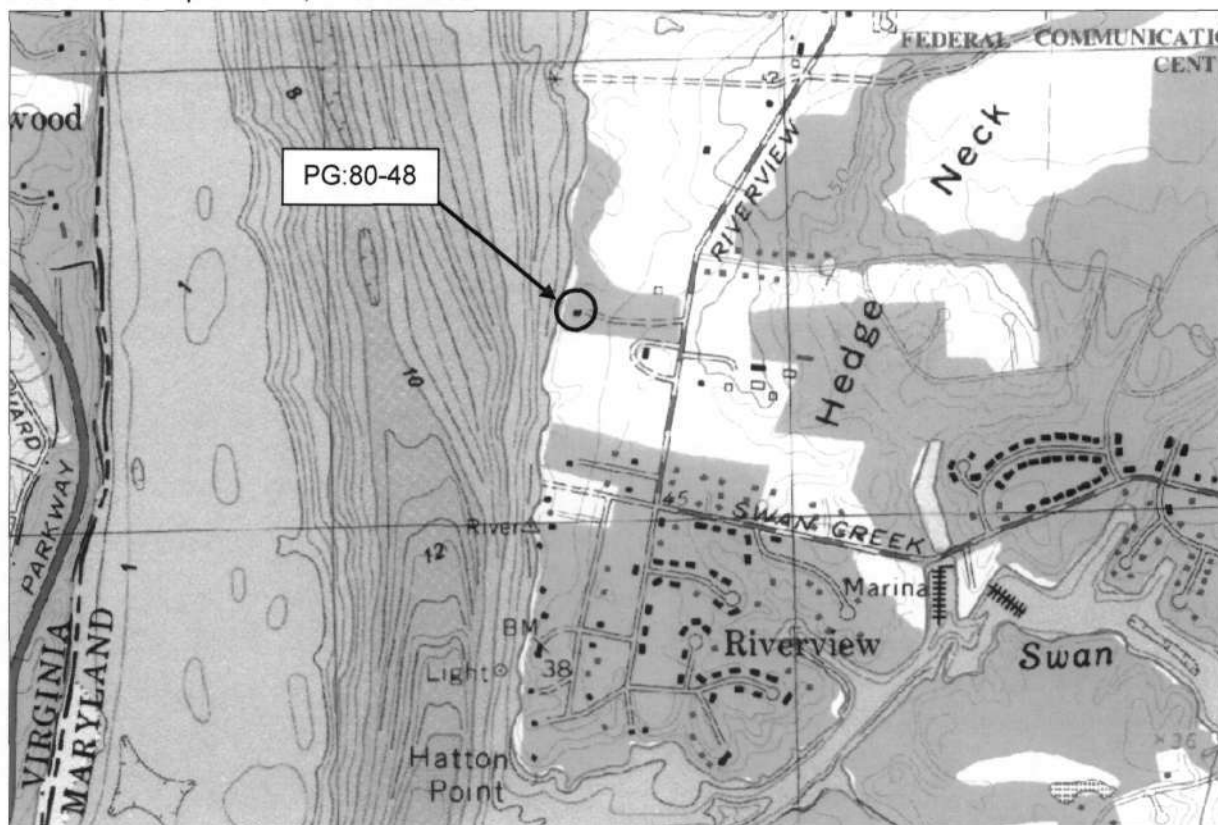
name title	Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian	
organization	Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission	date
street & number	c/o M-NCPPC, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone (301) 952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

PG:80-48
 Poore-Tufts House
 12001 Riverview Road, Fort Washington
 Mount Vernon quad 1966, Photorevised 1983



Tax Map 131, p. 34

Bing Maps Bird's Eye View, Facing east

